REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the following remarks, reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejections, and formal notification of the allowability the claim as presented are earnestly solicited. Claims 1-18 are pending. In response to the Office Action, Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, and 17 have been amended. It is believed that the pending claims define patentable subject matter over the reference cited by the Examiner and notice to such effect is requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Claim Status

Claim 1-8 are pending. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10 and 18 have been amended. The amendments find support throughout the Specification and the Drawings, and no new matter has been added.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner objected to the drawings of various grounds. The drawings have been amended accordingly. A set of amended drawings have been provided showing the changes in yellow highlight. Regarding components **(18), (20),** and **(22)**, the Specification has been changed so that each reference to these numbers refers to "folded" panels instead of "front" panels.

Specification Objections

The Specification has been amended to reflect the changes in the drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-9, 11-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,671,508 to Gordon ("Gordon"). More specifically, Examiner has indicated that "Gordon" discloses a raisable window treatment (10) comprising rows of ties (11, 13), rows of openings (14) and a top tab (6).

The '508 patent is directed to a ready-made valence drapery (see e.g., col. 1, lines 7-11). This product is entirely different from the claimed invention. Valence drapery is a short ornamental piece of drapery placed across the top of a window. It is a decorative piece of fabric that is stationary, in that it does not move up or down (e.g., like a roman shade) to control the amount of light passing through a window. In many instances, valence drapery is positioned a top of or over a raisable window treatment (e.g., roman shade) to provide a decorative window arrangement. Valence draperies are also typically mounted across the top of a window to conceal structural fixtures. See Appendix.

The claimed invention is not a valence drapery. It is a window treatment for restricting the amount of light and visual access through windows. The claimed invention has a plurality of fastenings means that are arranged to allow for the partial or complete raising of the window treatment. This cannot be done with the valence drapery of the '708 patent. The claimed invention, unlike the '708 valence drapery, allows the user to select a number of positions which vary the exposure of the window to admit varying amounts of light or visual excess to the window opening at any given time. Again, this cannot be done with the '508 valence drapery.

Given the above, independent claims 1, 6, 8 and 10 have amended to recite those features not found in the '708 patent. These claimed features include the following:

1. Ability to vertically raise the lower portion of the window treatment;
2. Multiple rows of ties extending horizontally with one row of openings positioned above each row of ties and vice versa;
3. Ability to secure the window treatment in various vertically raised positions to control the amount of light passing through the window;
4. A hollow sleeve positioned at or near the top of the panel. The sleeve enables insertion of a rod through the sleeve for installing and suspending the panel.

These amendments find support throughout the Specification and Drawings. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that for a rejection to be proper under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), the Gordon reference must "teach every element of the [rejected] claim." *See* MPEP §2131. In contrast, and as outlined above, Gordon **does not** disclose each and every element recited in the now pending claims.

Thus, for at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the recitations of independent Claims 1, 6, 8 and 10 are patentably distinct from Gordon. In addition, the pending Claims 2-5, 7, 9, 11-14, 16 and 17 **depend from** one of Claims 1, 6, 8 and 10 and are patentably distinct from Gordon for at least the same reasons stated above.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 10, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Gordon. In response, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In rejecting Claims 10, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner has stated that "while Gordon '508 sets forth only two rows of ties as opposed to the claimed three rows of ties,

it would have been within the purview of the artisan of ordinary skill in the art to have utilized additional rows of ties for their explicit purpose of raising the window treatment."

As mentioned, the '508 Gordon patent neither teaches nor suggests (explicitly or implicitly) any of the claim elements listed in response to the Examiner's anticipation rejection. Applicants thus respectfully submit that Gordon does not teach or suggest the recitations of Claim 10, much less the more specific recitations of Claims 15 and 18 depending therefrom.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Gordon **does not** disclose, teach, or suggest the recited elements of the present invention. Accordingly, in view of the above differences between the Applicants' invention and the cited reference, Applicants submit that the present invention, as defined by the pending claims, is patentable over the reference cited in the Office Action. As such, for the reasons set forth above, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT TO DRAWINGS (FIGS.1-5) SHOWN IN YELLOW HIGHLIGHT

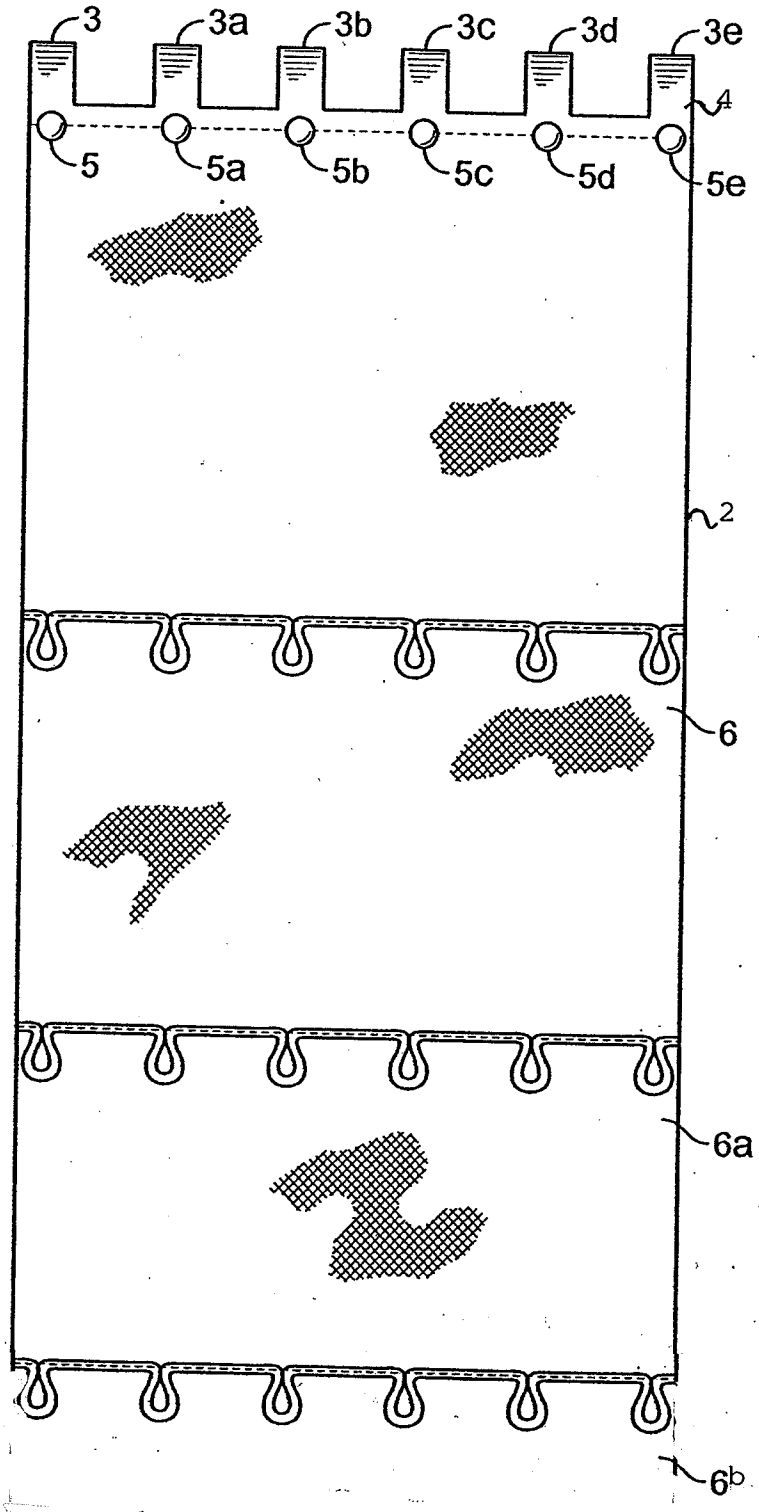

FIG. 1

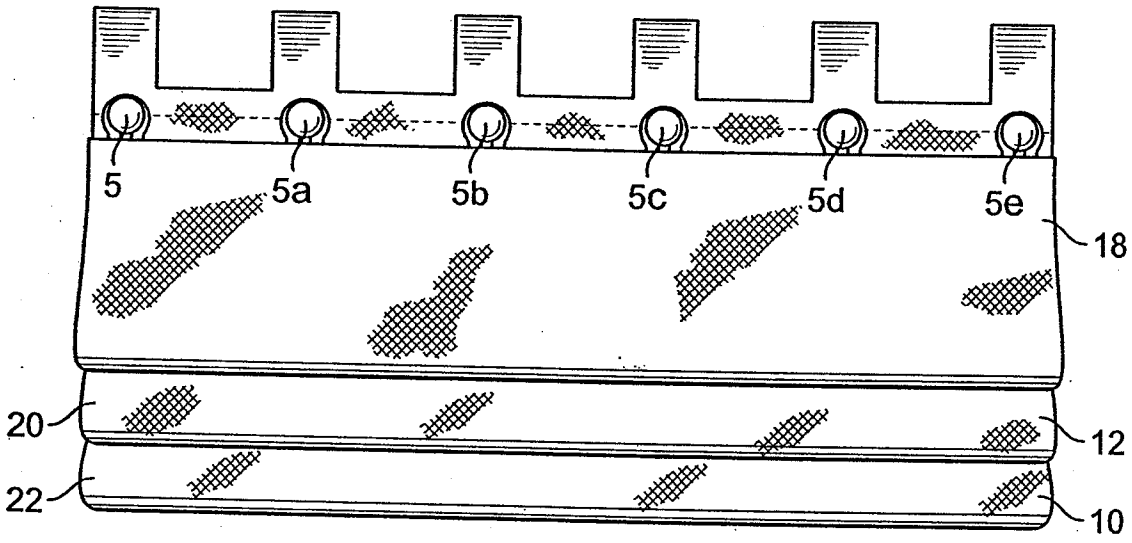

FIG. 2

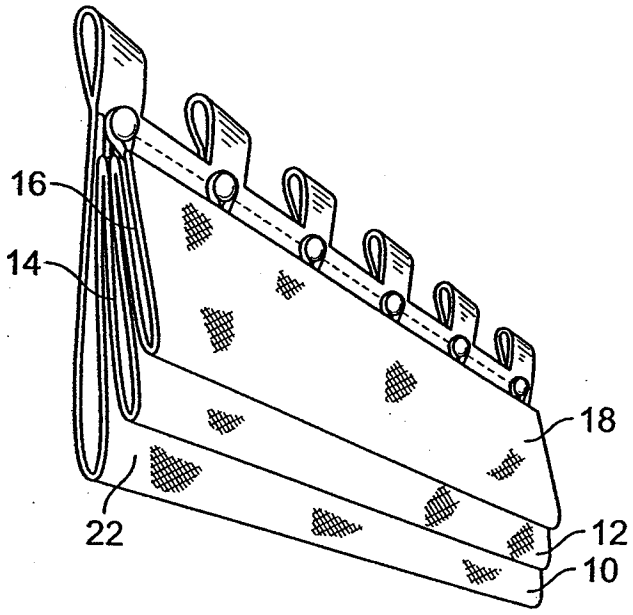

FIG. 3

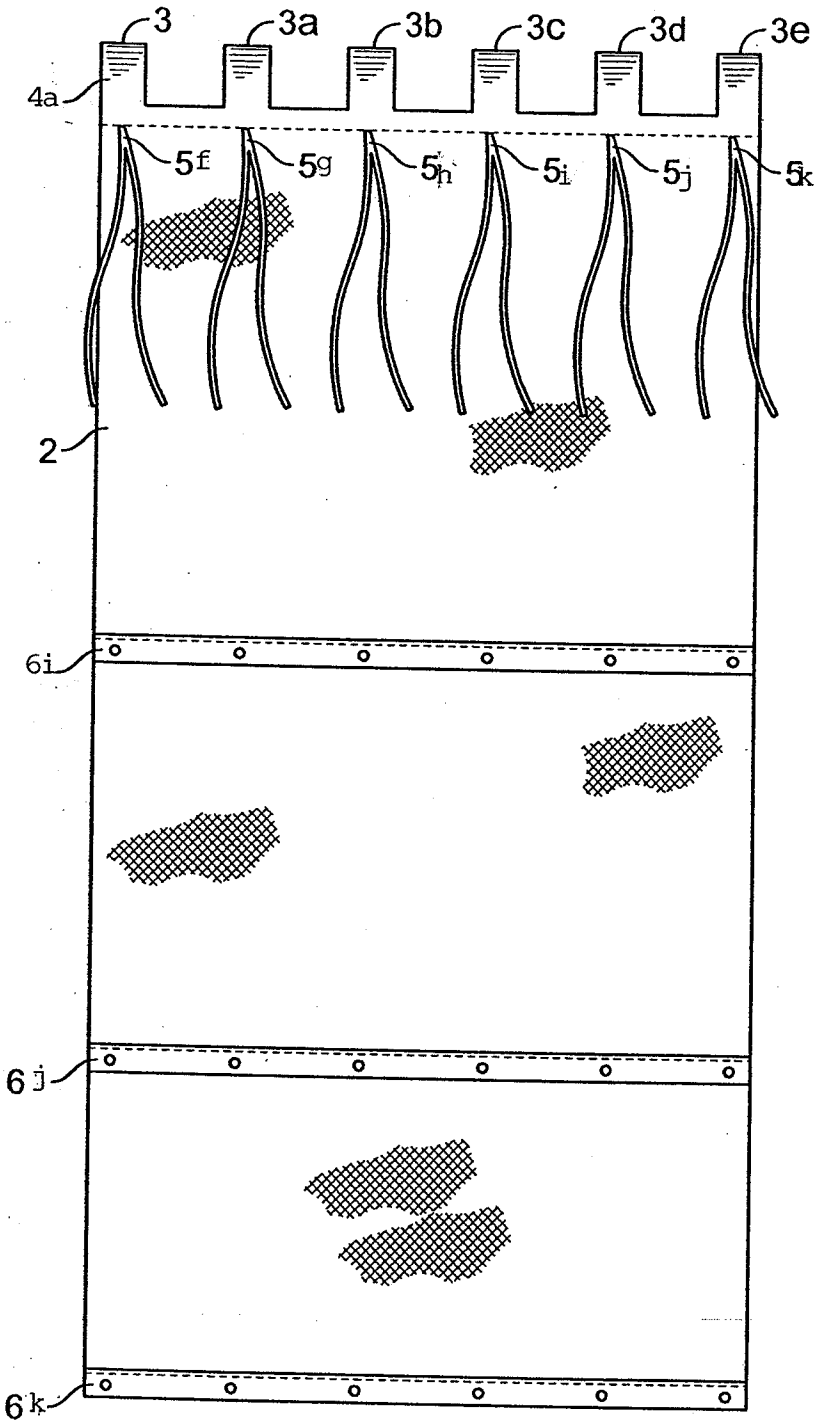

FIG. 4

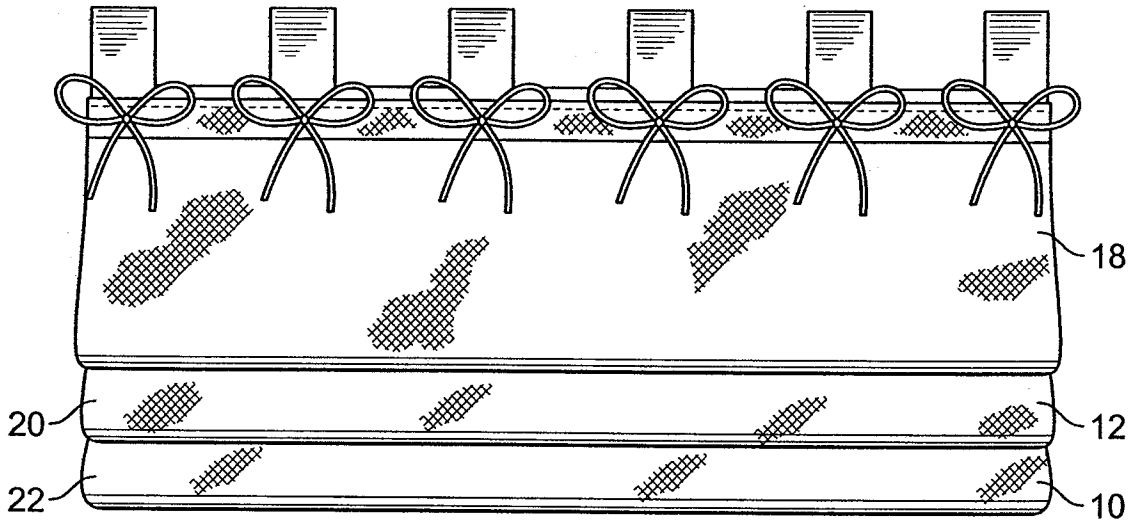

FIG. 5

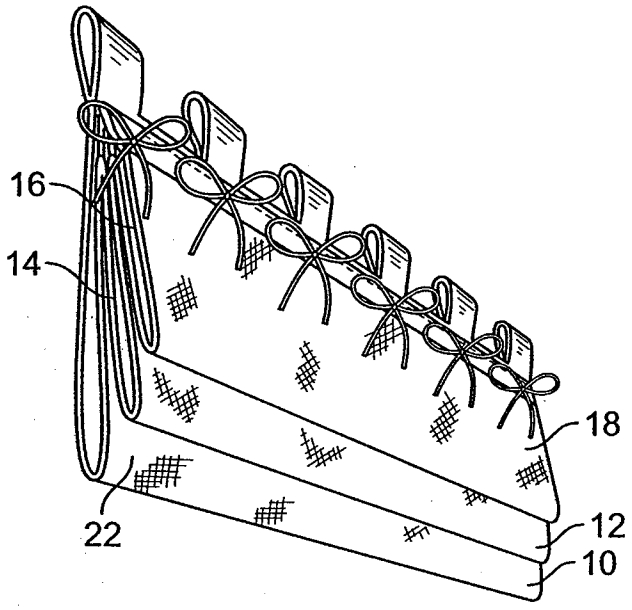

FIG. 6

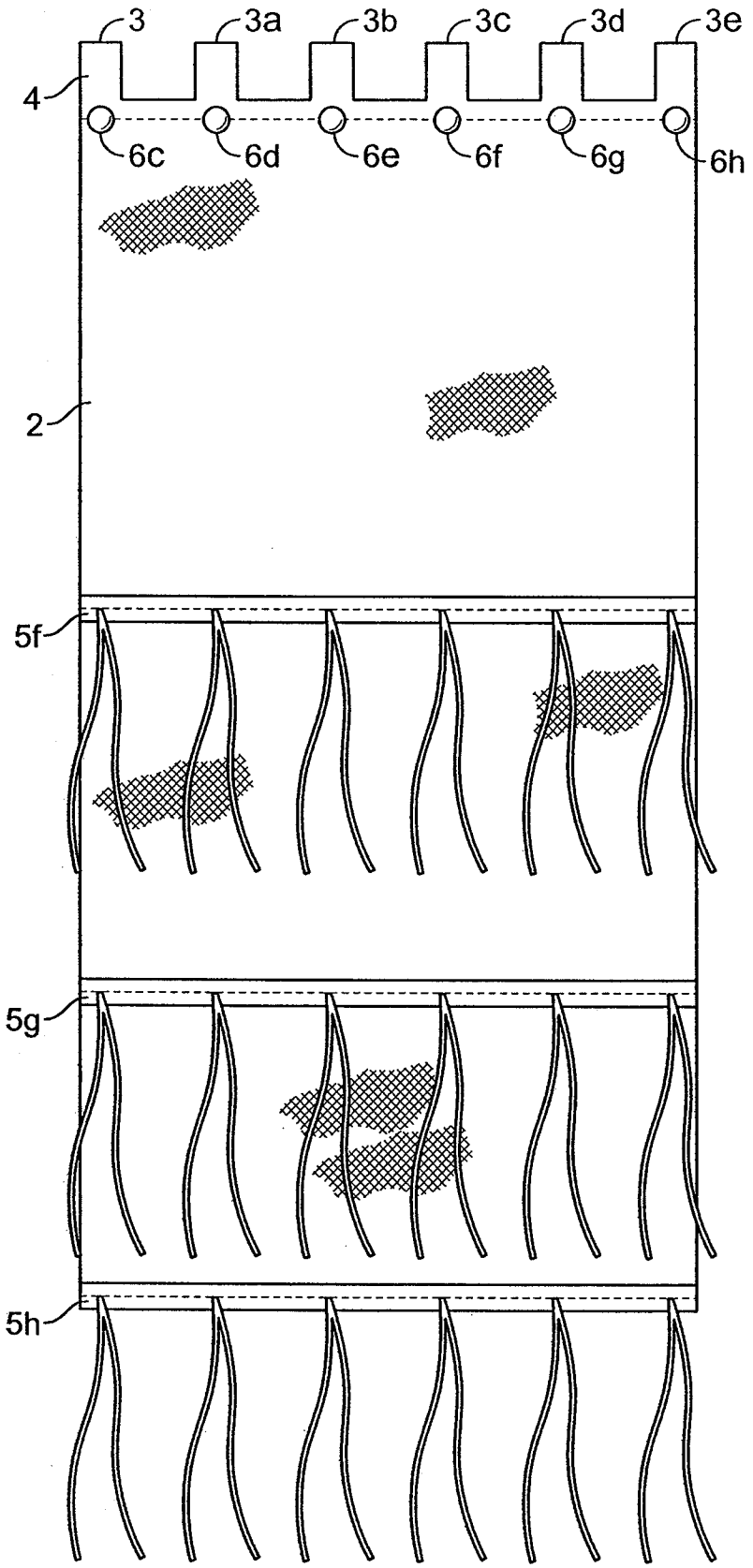

FIG. 7